

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 06005/37837B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s):

Hall et al.

Serial No.: 10/791,199

Title: Replaceable Valve Seat Ring with

Enhanced Flow Design

Filed: March 2, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3753

Examiner: George L. Walton

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as enclosed therewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, on August 27, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment,

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the official action dated June 23, 2004. Please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification are on page 2 of this paper.

A Listing of the Claims begins at page 3 of this paper.

Remarks in support of the amendments begin at page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the originally filed specification (page 5, line 26 - page 6, line 8) as follows:

In the disclosed example, the tool recess or accepting region 50 is an essentially square opening having four sides 56a, 56b, 56c, and 56d. The four sides are generally vertically oriented, although the sides can be slightly tapered at a draft angle for casting or forming purposes. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the sides are arranged as a square opening that forms part of the flow passage and has two pairs of opposed, parallel, flat sides 56a, 56c and 56b, 56d. Adjacent ones of the sides 56a-56d are interconnected at rounded corners 60, as described further below. In this example, the four sides 56a-56d and the intermediate surface 54 together define the tool recess 50 having a shape that corresponds to a standard socket wrench extension. In one example, a standard three-quarter inch socket extension can be inserted directly into the tool recess for removing or installing the seat ring 30 (see FIG. 6 and the description below). In other examples, the tool recess 50 can be configured to accommodate different sized socket extensions such as a standard half-inch or three-eighths inch extension size. In still other examples, the tool recess 50 can be configured to accommodate a different standard configuration tool head other than a socket extension, such as a TORX head, ALLEN wrench, hex head, or other standard configuration.